Good evening! Thank you for that warm welcome and for your invitation to be here.

I bring you greetings from Governor Ronnie Musgrove who is unable to join you here tonight because he is on the Gulf Coast participating in the 4<sup>th</sup> and final gubernatorial election debate.

I want to extend a warm welcome to all of you and especially to our visitors from Alabama.

Thank you to each of you for what you do each day to broaden accessability to and success in post-secondary education for our students.

You are reaching out to our neediest students and

assisting them in making their dreams a reality.

We all know that in today's global marketplace, an education is a necessity in securing a job that will provide for you and your family.

I know you will have many enriching sessions and discussions during the Leadership Conference. One of the greatest benefits of a conference like this is to network and share with each other. We never quit learning

from each other. We are all students in our own right.

Thank you again for the invitation to join you this evening and good luck with this Fall Leadership Conference.